



First Judicial Circuit — Girls Court — THE JUDICIARY • STATE OF HAWAII

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April 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to support the efforts of the Surfrider Spirit Sessions in seeking funding to sustain their program.

Since 2007 Cynthia Derosier and her staff have been providing Spirit Surf Sessions (SSS) to female adolescent participants of the Hawaii Girls Court. SSS have become a valuable partner and community resource. In addition to surf lessons, SSS teaches participants life lessons based in Ms. Derosier's Surfer Spirit book, and lessons on ecology and the importance of becoming a steward of our land and natural resources.

Most youth entering the juvenile justice system are disconnected from family and the community. SSS through the mentoring component invite teens to participate in a healthy activity, but more importantly demonstrate that there are community members who care enough to volunteer their time to make a difference in the life of a child. Several girls in the Hawaii Girls Court have become junior mentors in the SSS program, learning valuable vocational and leadership skills.

Most girls entering the Hawaii Girls Court have never been on a surfboard. Watching them overcome their fears, and being able to stand and surf for the first time is remarkable. They learn that with the support of others, they can overcome insecurities and succeed. This message learned in the ocean, has the power to change lives.

It is our hope that Surfrider Spirit Sessions will receive funding to continue their invaluable service and contribution to bettering the lives of youth at risk.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adriane Abe".

Adriane Abe
Program Coordinator
Hawaii Girls Court